

Date: 28th March 2024

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Online

[Resources](#)

Spring Forum and AGM Minutes

Attending:

Alan Peddie	AP	University of Edinburgh
Alice Smith	AS	EAUC Scotland
Amy Ledger	AL	APUC
Ana Hernandez	AH	University of Strathclyde
Betsy King	BK	Learning for Sustainability Scotland
Billy Currie	BC	Dumfries and Galloway College
Billy Grace	BG	Dundee and Angus College
Chris Walker	CW	Cycling Scotland
Christine Calder	CC	Dundee and Angus College
Claire McCulloch	CMc	SRUC
Claire Mitchell	CMi	EAUC
Craig Anderson	CA	University of Stirling
David Lowe	DL	Borders College
Elisa Garcia	EG	University of Dundee
Emma Zara	EZ	Edinburgh Napier University
Flora Reynolds	FR	Heriott Watt University
Jackie Beresford	JB	Dundee and Angus College
Kathleen Harper	KH	Ayrshire College
Kathrin Mobius	KM	EAUC Scotland
Lara Fahey	LF	EAUC Scotland
Lauren Braidwood	LB	ETZ (Energy Transition Zone)
Martin Webb	MWe	Edinburgh College
Matthew Woodthorpe	MWo	EAUC Scotland
Pamela Mathieson	PM	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
Ricarda MacDonald	RM	APUC
Robert Hewitt	RHe	Borders College
Rory Hill	RHi	EAUC Scotland
Rose Lyne	RL	University of Aberdeen
Sandra Thomson	ST	Glasgow Kelvin College
Sarah Proctor	SP	University of Strathclyde
Sarah Shea	SS	Glasgow Kelvin College
Scott Bryson	SBr	University of Strathclyde
Steph Buchanan	SBU	Edinburgh Napier University

Apologies:

Roddy Yarr	RY	University of Glasgow
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	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions <i>Christine Calder, Dundee and Angus College and EAUC Scotland Convenor</i></p> <p>CC welcomed all to the meeting and invited to share names and roles in the chat.</p>	
2	<p>Green Gown Awards 2023 Case Study: IT Reuse at the University of Edinburgh (Highly Commended in Digital Futures category) <i>Alan Peddie, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>AP introduced the IT Reuse project which is run by the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh.</p> <p>In 2015, while attending a building clear-out with the Waste Department, AP's team found 20 desktop computers which they decided to wipe and list on Warp-It. Running the project as a pilot, they began looking into technicalities around wiping and removal of hard drives, lifespan and software compatibility. They found that computing labs replaced their machines more frequently, so started reusing these internally while older machines were sent to the Edinburgh Remakery, an external social enterprise, to be sold at low cost or donated.</p> <p>Since its inception, the project has reused around 6000 desktops and laptops and a similar number of peripheral items. They estimate that it has saved the university around £500,000 in procurement costs. However, AP noted that running the project has likely cost around £400,000. AP stressed that the project is less focused on cost saving and more so on community partnerships and waste reduction – extending the lifespan of the machines while benefitting the community. AP also stressed that their electronic waste contractor should not be seen as “the bad guys”, noting the excellent work they do to recycle and reuse once this equipment reaches them.</p> <p><u>Q&A</u></p> <p>RL asked how the verification process with the Edinburgh Remakery works. AP said that they specify where they want donated equipment to go, choosing selected partners in advance.</p> <p>CA asked about the feasibility of extending this project to the student body. AP said that they were advised not to do this, and instead go through a third party. This is due to high demand and the probability of recipients asking for technical support. They are considering filtering “lockdown laptops” through existing channels.</p>	

	<p>SB asked if they have experienced issues with software compatibility and security on older machines and whether they have set a hard limit on hardware age. AP said that machines have hard drives removed before being sent to the Edinburgh Remakery where they are fixed up, updated etc. before being disseminated. Any technical concerns from the user would then be directed back to the Remakery. If they receive machines that cannot be made useful, they can use their own channels for electronic waste, but this represents a very small amount.</p>	
3	<p>EAUC and EAUC Scotland project update <i>Matt Woodthorpe, EAUC Scotland</i></p> <p>MWo shared an update on the EAUC Scotland programme. This is funded by the Scottish Funding Council and has five key outcome areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional leadership • Skills, Data and Knowledge • Sector Collaboration • Education for Sustainability • Partnerships <p>The funding landscape is challenging for the whole sector. EAUC Scotland, along with other SFC funding recipients, has gone from a three-year funding cycle to a one-year funding cycle. Looking ahead to 2024/25, there has been a real term cut in funding. Developing much needed work that goes beyond the 12-month horizon is a challenge, but we have been able continue strengthening the network.</p> <p><u>Review: 2023/24 Programme</u> Key statistics regarding events, networks and support from last year's programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 EAUC Scotland events with 634 participants • 93% Scottish FHE institutional engagement • 380+ sector enquiries • Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Peer Review expanded to 22 institutions • Regional meetings and Forums • 17 external events <p>We continued to engage with partners including, amongst others, the Scottish Funding Council, the College Development Network, APUC, Universities Scotland, Colleges Scotland, Sustainable Scotland Network, QAA and Learning for Sustainability Scotland.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months, we have produced best practice guidance for the sector including:</p>	

- [A Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education](#) (co-developed with QAA, University of St Andrews and other partners)
- Green Careers guides, both student-facing ([How to find a job that's good for you and the planet](#)) and for support staff ([Showing the Path to Green Jobs](#))
- [Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool](#) (originally developed by Rose Lyne and Estrid Jonsson at the University of Aberdeen who won the HESPA Innovation Award in February 2024)
- [Climate Risk Register](#) (co-developed with Adaptation Scotland and the Sniffer programme)
- [Sustainability Champions Learning Pack](#)
- [Guide to the APUC Scope 3 Supply Chain Emissions Tool](#)
- [Reducing aviation emissions blog series](#)

The Central and South Scotland College Partnership – a shared sustainability staffing resource for Borders College, Forth Valley College and West Lothian College, administered by EAUC Scotland – has continued to thrive during this programme, winning gold at the Green Apple Environmental Awards in 2023.

Coming Up

Over the next 12 months, EAUC Scotland's work will focus on:

- Identifying key intervention areas to embed ESD in college teacher initial training materials and professional development routes
- Initiating ESD guidance for college educators
- Research on current provision, opportunities and challenges for ESD in colleges
- Publication of a biodiversity strategy best practice guide
- Publication of a greenhouse gas emission reporting learning pack
- Publication of a commuter emissions calculator and guidance
- Facilitation of PBCCD peer review and wider support
- Delivering EAUC Scotland Conference on 13th November at John McIntyre Conference Centre (JMCC) at the University of Edinburgh
- Developing and submitting next funding bid to SFC
- Delivery of Topic Support Networks, Forums and regional network events

MW shared details of [upcoming EAUC Scotland events](#) which can be found on our website.

Q&A

CC and BC stressed the importance of EAUC Scotland's partnership work and voice, noting the continued support of funders and the significant volume of projects delivered by a small team.

4	<p>Advisory Group voting <i>Matt Woodthorpe, EAUC Scotland</i></p> <p>MWo explained that EAUC Scotland is guided by a four-person Advisory Group (AG) made up of sector staff and elected by the network. The AG is made up of representatives from colleges and universities, as well as different contexts such as estates and carbon, and teaching and organisational development. Additionally, one of these members takes on the role of convenor (currently held by Christine Calder) and sits on the EAUC UK board.</p> <p>The Advisory Group’s aims and objectives are to provide guidance and support in implementing EAUC Scotland’s funding programme, provide added value to core activities, encourage and support sustainable development, provide specialist focus, and help to disseminate best practice across the sector. They report via the AG convenor to the EAUC Board.</p> <p>Three places on the AG were open. Both Billy Currie and Craig Anderson had finished their first two-year terms and were standing for re-election, while Christine Calder had finished her second two-year term and was standing down. There was one new applicant, Lisa McGovern from City of Glasgow College.</p> <p>Billy Currie ran uncontested for the role of Convenor.</p> <p>MWo opened the floor for the applicants to speak about why they felt they should be considered for these positions. Please see the recording for these speeches.</p> <p>Voting was then opened. Votes were cast by online survey and only one vote per institution was accepted.</p>	
	<p>Comfort Break</p>	
5	<p>Energy Transition Zone <i>Lauren Braidwood, ETZ (Energy Transition Zone)</i></p> <p><u>Introduction</u> ETZ is a non-profit primarily funded by the UK and Scottish Governments and working to reposition the North East of Scotland as a net zero economy. The reasoning behind this is the current and future energy transition projects situated here, both onshore and offshore, including windfarms, hydrogen hubs and CO2 storage sites.</p> <p>ETZ’s key focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and infrastructure • Innovation, R&D and technology • High-value manufacturing and supply chain • Capability and skills • Location and community 	

Location

LB shared a map of Aberdeen with the Energy Transition Zone mapped out over Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates. The aim of the project is to regenerate these areas with a low-carbon focus. This doesn't just apply to the types of industry but includes physical infrastructure. Any companies that ETZ works with must adhere to their net zero and biodiversity framework while building or renovating spaces. As part of this, they must make energy efficiency considerations and aim for 25% green space with appropriate planting for the area. Through community work, ETZ also wants to improve and increase access to Tullos Wood.

At each Energy Transition Campus, they aim to start a seed project from which others will grow. These include:

- Hydrogen Campus – Hydrogen Test & Demonstrator Hub with green hydrogen sources for industrial testing
- Offshore Wind Campus – W0-1 is home to ORE Catapult FLOWIC as well as other companies
- Skills Campus – ETZ has purchased an old dairy to be reinvigorated as its Energy Transition Skills Hub, acting as an extension of North East Scotland College
- Innovation Campus – currently disused land purchased by ETZ for its Energy Incubator and Scale Up Hub, which will include labs, offices, workshops etc. designed for start-up companies
- Marine Gateway – potential development site at St Fittick's Park to allow access to the port

Community Vision

ETZ's community vision has six pillars:

- Jobs/Skills
- Wellbeing/Play
- Young People
- Heritage/Place
- Biodiversity
- Net Zero

Skills

Partnership is key to ETZ's skills work – they work with local schools, organisations etc. to promote STEM engagement.

Their Energy Skills Outreach Vehicle will form the mobile component of the Skills Hub, acting as a sort of "Science Centre on wheels". The vehicle will allow them to take energy technology and careers information to secondary schools and community events across the north-east starting in late 2024.

Their Jobs & Skills Plan was released in April 2023 to communicate and raise awareness of initiatives, promote collaborations and set out a framework for workforce development.

	<p>The National Energy Skills Accelerator (NESA) is a collaboration between the University of Aberdeen, North East Scotland College, Robert Gordon University, Skills Development Scotland and ETZ. This acts as a “one stop shop” to access energy courses, skills and development programmes and research and development capabilities in the partner institutes. Its aim is to find out what industry wants and needs and to plug these gaps. So far, they have found that people face barriers to training. Through the Just Transition Fund for North East and Moray, NESA was able to create programmes supporting workforce transition and targeting low-engagement groups. The Scottish Funding Council also awarded NESA with funding to complete a pathfinder project communicating routes into low-carbon jobs and developing a toolkit for regional education collaboration.</p> <p>Key statistics from the NESA partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 energy transition related courses, including 15 newly developed programmes across 3 FHE providers • Fully funded places provided to an anticipated 700+ learners <p><u>Q&A</u></p> <p>CA asked about location as a barrier. LB said that this is a major consideration in this area as many commute from rural areas with poor public transport provision. They encourage employers to consider hybrid and WFH options where possible. Construction phases, however, require a lot of skilled people to be onsite in geographically remote areas.</p>	
6	<p>Green Gown Awards 2023 Case Study: Fighting Fast Fashion at Glasgow Kelvin College (Winner in Next Generation Learning and Skills category) <i>Sarah Shea and Sandra Thomson, Glasgow Kelvin College</i></p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>SS introduced the Fighting Fast Fashion project at Glasgow Kelvin College, a reimagined fashion curriculum which is comprised of several parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Runway • Student-run Swap Shop • Bridal Gown Project <p><u>Project Runway</u></p> <p>ST has been running Project Runway since 2018, initially as a recruitment tool. Each year, during this 2-day learning event, around 80 school students work with GKC students, taking donated clothing and designing and creating new garments. Students then present and model the garments, with SS acting as the judge. The project is a fun and engaging way to raise awareness of sustainability amongst school and college students.</p> <p><u>Swap Shop Events</u></p>	

	<p>HN1 Design and Manufacture students organise and run these Swap Shop events where second-hand clothing can be exchanged. Promotion of the events has included infographics and videos to educate about the environmental effects of fast fashion. Students can take a leadership role in these events, which are now run bi-annually due to demand.</p> <p><u>Bridal Gown Project</u> ST teaches the HND-2 Bridal and Eveningwear course, and they found that they were struggling to find fabric resources. The Bridal Gown Project addresses this, as well as sustainability concerns. 13 "display" boutique bridal gowns destined for landfill were donated to the college. Students were then challenged to recycle and reimagine the garments, unpicking and breaking them down to constituent fabrics. No materials were purchased, and 16 gowns were produced by the end of the project. As well as reducing waste, this gave students access to luxury fabrics that they could not have bought new. ST now has a stock of fabrics, boning etc. that can be used in future years.</p> <p><u>Conclusion and Outcomes</u> Glasgow Kelvin College's Fashion department has created courses that will equip students with practical skills to champion the circular economy and zero waste fashion, emphasising existing clothing as a source for new garments, and educating learners about the climate consequences of fast fashion.</p> <p>Former students have started new companies with circular fashion as an integral element (for example, Re-Brolly) and considered charity shops as retail employment opportunities. Many are also taking this learning into account as they progress on to university studies.</p> <p>Impact in the wider community has also been significant, with the project acting as a best practice model for other staff working on sustainable curriculum development. SS and ST are working on a staff development day based around repair and mending.</p> <p><u>Q&A</u> CA asked if there were any reflections on managing partnerships from the project. ST said that many of their partnerships were pre-existing, and that partnership working is a priority for the college in general. SS noted that many of the partnerships are former students.</p>	
7	<p>AG voting result and AOB <i>Christine Calder, Dundee & Angus College and EAUC Scotland Convenor</i> Billy Currie, Craig Anderson and Lisa McGovern were elected to the Advisory Group with 100% of the vote. Billy Currie was elected as Convenor, again with 100% of the vote.</p>	

	BC thanked CC on behalf of the EAUC Scotland network for her excellent and tireless work on the AG over the past four years.	
8	<p>Thanks and Close <i>Christine Calder, Dundee & Angus College and EAUC Scotland Convenor</i></p> <p>CC thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	

Minutes prepared by Alice Smith, EAUC Scotland, April 2024